

## This Issue:

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- *Summer commuter contest winners*
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- *And More!*

*A bimonthly publication from Capitol Rideshare*

[www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com)



# Commuting employees share their thoughts in the Think Pink Survey

Now that the 2017 Think Pink Travel Reduction Survey is done, the Travel Reduction Program (TRP) staff would like to thank all of the travel reduction coordinators for their tireless efforts in encouraging participation as well as everyone who took the time to provide thoughtful answers. These responses and critiques serve to measure the effectiveness of our travel reduction strategies and help us adjust the capabilities of our services to the needs of employees.

Following the conclusion of the survey administration, the Travel Reduction Program staff has reviewed more than 800 employee comments from the survey. These give invaluable insight into the day-to-day difficulties employees face when considering alternatives to single occupant vehicle commuting. From the comments, staff has identified several common areas of concern:

- Flexible work hours to participate in alternate modes such as a compressed work week, telecommuting, or public transit.
- A 100 percent subsidy on the Platinum Pass program.
- Consideration of subsidies and accommodations (lockers and bike racks) for employees wishing to bike to work.
- Enforcement of permit-only carpool parking spots.
- Transparent feedback on survey results.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the survey was the enthusiasm which a majority of employees had for exploring alternative commutes. For most, it is not a matter of being willing but rather a question of being able to use an alternate mode. Many people would take the bus but find the cost to be too high with the Platinum Pass subsidy locked at 50 percent. Others would like to explore biking, carpooling or telecommuting but require more flexibility in their schedules to accommodate the lengthier commute. TRP staff is working to address these concerns and exploring different options and will keep employees apprised through this newsletter and the agency travel reduction coordinators. Staff also will share results of the survey analysis once those reports are delivered.

### **And sometimes, Capitol Rideshare just can't help...**

"...One of my biggest concerns with carpool is other people's personal hygiene and the fact that sometimes I enjoy driving to work with my trousers off. I feel this would make other people uncomfortable..." "Buy me a motorcycle please" "How about a pay raise" "A good suggestion would be portable A/C units that we could possibly mount on our heads" "I THINK WE NEED CHICKENS ON THE YARD. I WOULD LOVE SOME FREE EGGS."

# Announcing the June Clean Air Challenge winners!

As the summer heat always brings high ozone warnings, the Capitol Rideshare program responds with a Summer Clean Air Challenge, which runs one week each in June and July. The Rideshare team challenged employees to use an alternate mode at least once during the challenge week, then enter the contest and share their alternate mode. Employees from more than 50 agencies took the challenge! Twenty contest winners and one grand-prize winner were chosen at random. Three winners were chosen in a separate drawing exclusively for Commuter Club members. Among our winners, nearly every alternate mode was represented: biking, bus, light rail, car pool, alternative fuel vehicles, compressed work week and teleworking.

## These commuters each won a \$10 Ultratainment gift certificate

Nicole Umayam	Secretary of State
Steven Altman	Juvenile Corrections
Becky Donnelly	Real Estate
Jonathan Zuess	Economic Security
Fernando Regino	Economic Security
Amanda Sherman	Economic Security
Georgia Hawthorne	Economic Security
Cristina Valentin	Economic Security
Jonathan Quinsey	Environmental Quality
Gloria Yazzie	Parks
Dawn Godinez	Transportation
Scott Weinland	Transportation
John Bowen	Economic Security
Cheryl Golbeck	Health Services
Destiny Chirello	Education
Arnetta Stanley	Economic Security
Michele Michaels	Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Daniel Lukose	Transportation
Marie Pechan	Public Safety Personnel Retirement
Brent Mitchell	Environmental Quality

## Grand prize winner: Vincent Abeyta, Department of Transportation



Grants and Federal Resources summer intern Sarah Sanchez presents grand prize winner Vincent Abeyta with his gift bag, which held \$40 in Ultratainment gift certificates and various Capitol Rideshare collectibles, including a travel mug for use during his commute!

Commuter Club only drawing: Latisha Mitchell Donald, Economic Security; John Sullivan, Health Services; Janet Ball, Secretary of State

## It's not too late to take the July Clean Air Challenge.

Use an alternate mode to commute to work at least ONE day during the challenge week. Fill out the Clean Air Challenge contest entry form below or visit the website at [www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com) and complete an online entry.

20 Prizes for the Challenge Week!  
Grand Prize Drawing for a \$40.00 Gift!

<b>I Didn't Go It Alone! I SHARED THE RIDE!</b>	
<b>July 24-28</b>	Name _____
	Agency _____
	Address _____
	Phone _____ Email _____
Deadline: August 4	Circle the <b>DAY</b> and the <b>MODE</b> : <b>mon</b> <b>tues</b> <b>wed</b> <b>thurs</b> <b>fri</b> carpool bus/light rail bike walk VO CWW AFV/Hybrid
Email to <a href="mailto:RideShareHelp@azdoa.gov">RideShareHelp@azdoa.gov</a> or send interagency to: Capitol Rideshare 100 N. 15th Ave., #305	

Rules: Employees must be a non-university State employee in Maricopa County and participate at least one day during the Challenge Week. Participation consists of trips to and from work ONLY. A complete coupon must be submitted by the deadline. No credit given for sick or vacation days. Compressed work week day OFF is eligible. Alternate fuel vehicles are eligible ONLY if they are utilizing alternate fuel. Certain restrictions apply. If you need this information in an alternate format call 602-542-RIDE.

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# Commuter Club renewal strong—be sure to renew for FY 2018!

*Membership is now paperless—no more cards*

By the middle of July, more than 400 employees had renewed their Commuter Club memberships. State employees who use an alternate mode at least twice a week are eligible for Commuter Club membership. Alternate modes include transit, carpool, telework, bike, walk, vanpool, and compressed work week. There is no cost to join the Commuter Club. Membership benefits include:

**Emergency ride home.** Commuter Club members are eligible for two FREE emergency rides home each year. Qualifying emergencies include illness resulting in an employee leaving prior to the departure of their commuting time; family emergency requiring an employee to leave work early; and a carpool driver unexpectedly leaving work early. In June, Capitol Rideshare staff assisted Department of Corrections employee Venor Elman with an emergency ride home. She had never used Uber or Lyft previously but was happy with the ride home, which took less than 30 minutes.

Department of Economic Security employee Thomas McNeal needed an emergency ride home when he unexpectedly was sent to a different work site than his carpool driver. At the end of Thomas's work day, Capitol Rideshare dispatched a Lyft driver to take Thomas home. "I have used both Lyft and Uber previously. My ride showed up quickly...the wait was less than five minutes. I was very happy with the service; it was great to know that it was available when I was at a different work location than I was used to going to."

**Discounts from ridesharing companies Uber and Lyft.** Employees who have renewed their membership have been enjoying the benefits offered by Uber and Lyft, including the free emergency ride home. Thomas McNeal was quick to renew his Commuter Club membership. He downloaded the Uber and Lyft discount codes he received when he renewed. "The codes that were sent are great." Upon receiving his rideshare discount codes with his renewal, Department of Child Safety employee Alexander Kogl replied to the Capitol Rideshare team with a note of thanks. "Nice job!! I have over 300+ Uber rides and this will help save a LOT of money! Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Uber and Lyft will continue to offer discounts to Commuter Club members who are new to their service as well as offer seasonal discounts to Commuter Club members who are veteran Uber and Lyft customers. If you are not familiar with their services, check out their web sites: [www.uber.com](http://www.uber.com) and [www.lyft.com](http://www.lyft.com).

The Capitol Rideshare team continues to look for mission-related benefits for Commuter Club members, so be sure to renew your membership or apply for a new membership today at [www.CapitolRideshare.com](http://www.CapitolRideshare.com). All new benefits will be communicated through the newsletter and through the agency travel reduction coordinators.

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## Summer HPA winners!

Along with the triple-digit temperatures comes the inevitable rise of ozone pollution problems and High Pollution Advisories (HPA). To combat these pollution problems, the Travel Reduction Program encourages state employees to take action and participate in our HPA contest. You can choose to carpool, telework, take transit, stay in for lunch, combine trips, avoid drive-thru options, and refuel after dark to make an impact. Choose one of these alternate modes, then visit [CapitolRideshare.com](http://CapitolRideshare.com), log your participation and enter to win a prize and recognition here in the pages of the Rideshare Review!

## May and June HPA winners

Jim Foster; Secretary of State  
Gary Glatting; Administration  
Terry Behrens; Corrections  
Lila Trimmer; Transportation  
Gina Moojen; Health Services  
Julia Voight; Transportation  
Momtaz Alam; Medical Examiners Board  
Roxanne Best; Corporation Commission  
Linda Sue Duren; Gaming

**Rideshare  
Review**

# Get to work—without the commute

*Teleworking and virtual offices allow employees to cut the commute*

Teleworking is a management option that enables employees to work from home or a state office closer to home when approved by a supervisor. To participate, the employee and the supervisor must complete the required computer-based training and sign a telework agreement that spells out the expectations for both parties. The telework agreement may cover one day a week or in some cases, employees work most days from a virtual office. It's important to note that not every position is suitable for teleworking, a topic that is discussed in the training module.

Teleworking has been encouraged as the state recognizes the potential benefits in reducing air pollution, increasing employee morale and productivity, as well as retaining and attracting employees. Therefore, the state has mandated that state programs have a goal of 20 percent of state employees participating.

Employees and agencies are directly benefitting from this mandate. The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has implemented telework agreements throughout the agency. Lupe Lerma, a supervisor with AHCCCS's Division of Fee for Service Management, has employees that telework and some that work from virtual offices. She is pleased with the results and indicates that there is a visible increase in morale. She notes that there are challenges, too. "Sometimes, the challenge is having the employee understand the difference (between telework and virtual office) and why certain positions do not lend themselves to working from home on a full-time basis."

Shana Malone, a Clinical Initiatives Project Manager at AHCCCS, has a telework agreement. She indicated the process of setting it in place was easy. The work she does from her home office includes data analysis, virtual and phone meetings, grant writing and project coordination activities. For her, the benefits are tangible. "It maximizes quality time to devote to the work and it minimizes distractions. Satisfied employees are productive employees. Telecommuting options are one great way to achieve that."

Teleworker Chris Klemnich, an attorney with the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, shares similar benefits. "In addition to avoiding the stress of the rush hour commute, I have found that there are less distractions when conducting research in my home office."

Andrew LeFevre, executive director at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, has encouraged the supervisors in his agency to implement telework agreements where practical. He notes that this option gives employees "flexibility to balance their work schedule with their family life; we have seen improved employee efficiency, increased time available for work and improved employee retention and attraction."

Employees interested in this commute solutions option can learn more by visiting [teleworkarizona.com](http://teleworkarizona.com) and talking to their supervisors to determine eligibility. In doing so, it's one more step toward improving air quality in the valley.

**Need to find someone to share the ride? Log on to [www.capitolrideshare.com](http://www.capitolrideshare.com) and complete a matchlist. It takes just a few minutes and it is confidential. It is a great way to find someone who shares your commute! Need help? Call us at 602.542.7433.**



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Editor, Mary Marshall; Contributors, Sarah Sanchez and Michael Pati

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